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MONTANA
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY
SERVICES
DIVISION NEWSLETTER
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WILLIAM K. GOOD, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR

The articles in this newsletter do not constitute official policy. This newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The June 1991 issue of the DES Newsletter was printed at a cost of \$34.90. Mailing costs were \$47.95 for a total of \$.37 per copy.

Volume 18

Number 4

September 1991

Montana Disaster & Emergency Services
Division
P.O. Box 4789
Helena, MT 59604-4789

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NOTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Boy -- is this train ever moving fast!!! I am really having fun. I just want to update you on a few things that are happening.

In the last two months I have attended two district meetings-- one in Missoula and one in Miles City. I had a great time at each one, just exchanging ideas about how we can do our job better.

I had the opportunity to travel through eleven counties in eastern Montana meeting emergency management team members. Thanks to our District Representative, Norm Parrent, who arranged the trip, I had a great time meeting some outstanding people. Thanks go to Jim Kraft, Wes Plann, Art Zody, Frank Datta, Lynette Hintze, Butch Renders, Dennis Paulbeck, Charles Cassidy, Elaine Wittkopp, Carol Hellyer, Deb Ranum, Gloria Heggen and many others for taking time out of their busy schedules to talk to me and answer my questions. I will visit more counties in the near future. My main purpose is to meet the most important person in the county--the DES coordinator. He/she then can introduce me to any other person desired. It is nothing more than a short, sweet, informal orientation visit.

Many other things are also happening. Our State Emergency Operations Plan has been submitted to the FEMA regional office and we are still negotiating. Our Comprehensive Cooperative Agreement was submitted and negotiations were completed in August. We have asked for considerably more money in 1992, but it will be some time before we know how much money we get. Carol Alm is on board as the accounting technician and she is already a significant member of the team. We said goodbye to Gretchen Bingman and I hired Larry Akers as a Disaster Preparedness Improvement Grant planner. Flood disaster declarations from four counties continue to give us something to do.

Have any of you ever heard of SERC? Do you remember what that is? For some, you may remember it as the State Emergency Response Commission. We are going to get that thing cranked up again, with our next meeting scheduled for October 16, 1991. We must develop a viable, representative SERC. We also have to determine what we need to do to improve the functioning of our LEPCs (Local Emergency Planning Committees). We are going to develop a small task force to study the SERC/LEPC in detail and make recommendations on organization, functions, responsibilities, etc.

Since this train is moving so fast, I have asked the DES Association to give me a standard subject of "State of the Union" when they program me to speak at Association meetings. With this I can talk about the hottest subjects at the time of the meeting. Please call me if you have a special request for a subject to be included in my presentation.

-Bill Good

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEGREE

The July/August issue of the *Contingency Journal* included a snippet on an undergraduate degree in emergency management offered by Thomas Edison State College (Trenton, New Jersey). The program is available to all emergency managers throughout the country with no requirement for residency. The program is being coordinated with the National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management as part of the national emergency management certification program. For more information on this degree contact your NCCEM representative.

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Implementation guidance for Earthquake Emergency Preparedness was outlined in a recent memorandum issued jointly by the Office of Public Instruction and the Division of Disaster and Emergency Services. House Bill 665, passed by the 1991 Legislature, mandates earthquake emergency plans and procedures, (drills), for all schools in the highest earthquake-risk counties of Montana (Title 20, Chapter 7, Section 1101).

Nancy Keenan, Superintendent of Public Instruction and William K. Good, Jr. Administrator of the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division noted that while some school districts have plans and procedures in place, the vast majority of the 87 districts located in the eleven highest earthquake-risk counties will need to develop these items during the upcoming months.

For those districts without plans and procedures in place, a schedule of two drills, (one drill in-place [duck-cover & hold] and one drill including full evacuation of the school), will be required. These two drills should be scheduled for the spring of 1992 and should allow for weather considerations.

The Disaster and Emergency Services Division, with funding assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program, will fill an Earthquake Program Coordinator position on or about October 1, 1991. The top priority for this coordinator will be to provide guidance and assistance to school districts in earthquake emergency planning. To allow time for this to take place, full compliance to 20-7-1101 will not be required until December 31, 1992.

Guidance for drill procedures will be provided to all affected districts no later than December 31, 1991. This will allow for the abbreviated drill schedule to take place during the spring of this school year.

Ms. Keenan and Mr. Good also stated "Many people in Montana are not aware that our state ranks fourth in the nation, behind Alaska, California and Hawaii, in the risk of major damaging earthquakes. In supporting this legislation we not only realize the importance of protecting school students and staff from this potential catastrophic hazard, but also the need to provide you, the administrators, with the tools and assistance necessary to perform these tasks."

INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COURSE

Mark your calendar! The Introduction to EM course will be held December 2-6, 1991 in Helena at the Coach House East.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Natural Hazards Observer listed several new publications on floods and flood proofing. Each of the documents is available for free or next to nothing.

Flood Proofing Techniques, Programs, and References (1991, 23 pp.) can be ordered from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Flood Proofing Committee, Attention: CECW-PF, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC 20314-1000. This booklet provides information on reducing potential flood damage to buildings and their contents. It also contains instructions on emergency flood proofing measures.

If you have time to pre-plan for flood, this may be a helpful brochure: *Flood Warning and Preparedness Plans* (1990, 6 pp.). Copies are available from the Office of Water Data Coordination, U. S. Geological Survey, 417 National Center, Reaton, Virginia 22092.

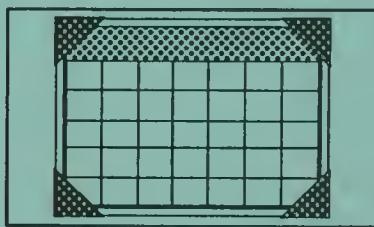
Those of you who are floodplain managers will find *Floodplain Compliance: Enforcing Your Community Floodplain Management Ordinance* (1991, 31 pp.) interesting. The booklet includes information on regulating floodplains, types of violations and how to resolve them. For a copy write to: Claire Meizio, Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Water Resources, 201 West Center Court, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-1096.

Two videotapes, available for \$10.00 each, demonstrate and

discuss ways homeowners can protect existing homes. The first tape, *Best Build II: Construction in a Riverine Floodplain*, discusses techniques for new construction. The second tape, *Best Build III: Protecting a Flood-Prone Home*, tells how to protect existing homes. There are other tapes in this series so ask for the tape by name. Send your request and money to: National Flood Insurance Program, Best Build Series, P. O. Box 710, Lanham, Maryland 20706.

EXERCISE DESIGN COURSE

The Exercise Design Course will be held September 11-13, Miles City at the Community College. Get your applications in as soon as possible to guarantee your acceptance.



TRAINING CALENDAR

The Disaster and Emergency Services Division FFY 91 course listing came in the shape of a calendar. Your comments on this format produced some very good ideas for the next offering. The DES training section is now

busy incorporating those ideas into the new FFY 92 training calendar. Look for your copy sometime in October.

-NancyJo Ilminen

Put this one on your calendar, folks! The 1992 Governor's Conference for Elected Officials will be held February 12-14, 1992 in Lewistown. More information will provided as we get closer to the conference.

800 MHz PLANNING

The first meeting of the 800 MHz Planning working committee was held in Dillon on July 19, 1991. The goal of the working committee is to develop a draft plan and submit it to the Committee at Large for review and vote of approval.

Final plan balloting will be conducted by mail. Each recognized user association will be allowed one vote. The State of Montana will be allowed one vote for each Public Safety Radio Service.

The working committee membership was expanded to include Dick Wessler, Valley County DES, representing the Montana Association of Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators and Dick Boyer, Bozeman Police Department, representing the Montana Association of Chiefs of Police.

The next meeting of the Working Committee will be in Kalispell on September 21, 1991.

-Homer Young

LEVEL I, AWARENESS LEVEL, TRAIN-THE- TRAINER COURSE SCHEDULE

In conjunction with the Training Committee of Montana's State Emergency Response Commission, the Fire Training School is conducting a series of awareness courses so local jurisdictions have personnel trained to deliver OSHA, Level I awareness classes for local personnel who respond to hazardous materials incidents.

Using the 13 statewide regional training location sites developed by the Montana Department of Transportation, the Montana Fire Training School will reach hundreds of local trainers. Anyone interested should contact either the Montana Fire Training School, 761-7885.

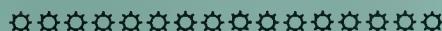
The course schedule at each site is:

- 9:00 Model Delivery of Content
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Model Delivery (Cont.)
- 2:00 Discuss Methodology
- 3:00 Review Course Management, Reporting
- 3:30 Test and Evaluation

Accreditation is test dependent.

The remaining classes are: Sept 23, Great Falls; Oct 16, Missoula; Dec 4, Kalispell and Dec 5, Shelby. The Billings course will be scheduled shortly and area coordinators will be notified.

-Fred Cowie



The following article was submitted by Edward A. Swetish, State Disaster Chairman, American Red Cross and all around nice guy.

MESSAGE FROM AMERICAN RED CROSS

After a wet spring and a hot summer, the fire season is here again. July was hot and dry, but August is usually worse, and with all of the extra vegetation around this year, we should be getting ready for the problems this may create. We have already experienced some fires in the state and there will surely be more to come.

Is your ARC chapter prepared to handle the potential victims of a grass fire or a forest fire? If not, it would be wise to do some pre-planning before the fire starts.

Do you have an active Disaster Committee trained to deal with problems such as mass care (feeding and sheltering), damage assessment, resource procurement (such as trained volunteers, cots, blankets, sheltering facilities, a means to feed

shelterees for a few days) and someone trained in family services and health services? Are your agreements for the use of sheltering facilities current? Do you have agreements with merchants for the purchase of supplies and food?

If you have any questions about your response capabilities, call the ARC Territory office at 727-2212 or the ARC Disaster Chairman at 458-9367.



RED CROSS PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Talking Points for Disaster Education Presentations (1991, 49 pp.) are presentation outlines for preparedness discussions on earthquakes, floods, residential fires, tornadoes and, the Montana favorite, hurricanes. The *Talking Points...* can be used with the new series of five Red Cross preparedness brochures.

The *Are you Ready for...?* brochures each address a different hazard. The topics duplicate those in the presentation outlines. The brochures and *Talking Points...* are available from local chapters of the American Red Cross or by writing to: Disaster Services, National Headquarters, American Red Cross, 431 18th Street, North West, Washington DC 20006.

WEATHER SERVICE GUIDES

Disaster and Emergency Services Division, in cooperation with the National Weather Service office, will be distributing a guidebook of National Weather Service products to all local DES coordinators. This guide was prepared by Lynn Valtinson, Warning Preparedness Meteorologist, in the Forecast Office in Great Falls. Five companion brochures will accompany the guide which was prepared for law enforcement and emergency services personnel.

Tentative plans have been made to offer weather spotter training to all DES coordinators during the Governor's Conference in February 1992. More details will be provided as the conference agenda is firmed-up.

-Bob Musselman

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TRAINING FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

Title III Community Right to Know of the Super Fund Amendments Reauthorization Act provided money for training in Hazardous Materials training. A portion of those funds were set aside for training programs in Indian Reservations.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes reply to the Federal Emergency Management Agency indicating their interest in participating in the program. They have until September 30th to submit a proposal.

Six proposal have been or will be received by Region 8 for these training dollars. FEMA, Region 8 received an allocation of \$75,000 for the current fiscal year.

-Chris Christensen

MONTANA POWER EXERCISES

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requires Montana Power Company to exercise the Emergency Action Plans for their dam facilities each year. The functions in these plans, which are similar to emergency operations plans, that demand testing are those involving warning and notification resulting from detected problems at the hydro-electric power plants. The following are dates and locations of pre-planned exercises: September 10, Mystic Dam, Stillwater County; September 11, Madison Dam, Madison County; and September 18, Rainbow Dam, Cascade County. The Rainbow Dam Exercise will be conducted as a functional exercise.

-NancyJo Ilminen

ACTUAL OCCURRENCES

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VIII, Denver has given credit for full scale exercises regarding technological hazards to the following jurisdictions: Butte/Silver Bow County, bomb explosion; Ravalli County, propane tank spill; Judith Basin County, Turkey fire and Windham fire; Lake County, winter storm and power outage; Butte/Silver Bow County, Union Pacific train derailment, fire and hazardous material spill; Flathead County, natural gas line rupture and evacuation; and Missoula County, high pressure boiler explosion at Stone Container Corp.

-NancyJo Ilminen

EXERCISES

Reminder: the federal fiscal year ends September 30th. You have until the 10th of October to submit any exercise data (FEMA Form 95-16) to your district representative. Help us close out the fiscal year in a timely manner by heeding this reminder.

A BOOK TO BUY!

The Natural Hazards Observer has proven a good judge of emergency management publications. They recently

Recommended the book *Emergency Management: Principles and Practice for Local Government* edited by Thomas Drabek and Gerald Hoetmer and with good reason.

The book contains information on all aspects of emergency management presented by people who work in emergency management. If you would like more information on this wonderful book, just ask. It is a bit pricey, considering budget constraints, but well worth the \$27.95 per copy.

HAZMAT TRAIN

We thought you would be interested in reading the following letter written by Bob Morelli, Safety and Rules Director, Burlington Northern Railroad.

Mr. William K. Good,
Administrator
Montana Disaster & Emergency Services
P.O. Box 4789
Helena, Montana 59604

In June and July, we had the Hazardous Material Train travel through the State of Montana, eastern edge of North Dakota and the western edge of Idaho. Forty-three classes at 18 locations were held and 1,215 first responders of many different agencies were trained. This was a joint effort by Burlington Northern, Amtrak Corporation, Acton Chemical, Exxon, Conoco, Montana Rail Link, the

State of Montana, Federal Railroad Administration, Association of American Railroads, and the Montana State Disaster and Emergency Services.

With all entities involved, this was the most complicated educational program that I have ever been involved with; yet the most organized, coordinated, and rewarding.

Most of the success belongs to the State Disaster and Emergency Services, who made available their entire staff to fill our needs. The local county coordinators deserve additional praise for their preparation in meeting places, invitations and coordination, helping in the classrooms, and the hands-on training.

Mr. Henry, one of our trainers from Burlington Northern, Overland Park, Kansas, has been with this train throughout the Burlington Northern system and has never seen one more organized and as well attended as this tour has been.

I wish to give my personal thanks to all of the members of DES for the success of this most worthwhile training program, and looking forward to working with your agency in the future.

(signed)R. A. Morelli
Safety & Rules
Burlington Northern Railroad

"THE IRISH STORY"

Several weeks ago, Yellowstone County DES Coordinator, Jim Kraft, was contacted by a member of the filming crew for Ron Howard's "Irish Story" that has been on location in the Billings area since February. They asked Jim to assist with the medical coordination of the filming of a simulated Oklahoma land rush about 30 miles east of Billings.

The Oklahoma land rush consisted of 1,400 horses, 150 wagons, and approximately 800 actors. The idea behind the Oklahoma land rush was that all interested people settling in Oklahoma lined up on a starting line one day and the calvary shot off a cannon to begin the land rush. This was simulated in the movie and 1,400 horses, 800 people and 150 wagons took off across the prairie at full run.

Knowing this staged exercise could involve many injuries, the movie people asked all local emergency medical services to assist. The medical services included four ambulances from Arrow Ambulance Service, the H.E.L.P. helicopter from St. Vincent's Hospital, two medivac helicopters from the Army National Guard stationed in Helena, 30 volunteer EMT and paramedics, several local doctors, several triage nurses

and local DES for coordination and triage supplies.

This was a four day practical disaster exercise. Total injuries for the event included 18 people with injuries ranging from minor to major, such as broken ribs and broken noses. This was an excellent coordination exercise for the Billings medical services and proved to be a very interesting departure from the normal day-to-day DES business.

The stars of the movie included Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, plus, of course, the producer Ron Howard. This \$65 million movie has scenes at the Vermandal Ranch east of Billings and also includes filming at the old Northern Pacific Railroad Depot downtown, the old Club Wholesale Warehouse building in Billings and the Pryor Creek area. The filming will continue until the middle of August when the film crew and all their paraphernalia will move to Ireland to complete the filming.

It is interesting to note that most of the film crew came from California, but many local people were hired as extras and it was very good for the Billings economy and a very good exercise for local DES; not only a medical coordination exercise, but also an information and educational exercise on the film industry.

MONTANA POWER PLUGS PREPAREDNESS

Montana Power Company deserves applause for the disaster preparedness information they have been including in their monthly leaflet, *Montana Energy*. *Montana Energy* is the insert MPC includes with residential power bills. The preparedness topics have been mostly weather related. Often the text describes personal planning, preparedness, response and recovery tailored for one disaster situation. The July 1991 issue included an excellent piece on tornadoes in Montana.

Please write to Bob Amick, the editor of *Montana Energy*, at 40 East Broadway, Butte, Montana 59701 and let him know professional emergency managers appreciate his efforts in emergency education for the public.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

There seem to be a lot of comings and goings this time. There several new faces in the Helena office and a bunch of new folks in the county offices. So, in no particular order, here we go.

Lynette Hintze has resigned from Richland County Civil Defense. Butch Renders is the new Richland County director.

Charles Madler has moved on to new pursuits. Debra Ranum is the new Fallon County Civil Defense director.

Sid Grovenstein the Custer County semi-permanent, acting DES coordinator has retired, again. James Zabrocki is the new Custer County coordinator. (See you in Red Lodge, Sid!)

Bill King, another permanent DES fixture, resigned earlier this summer for health reasons. Mike Fahley is serving double duty as Carbon County DES coordinator and sanitarian.

Shauna Cornell, our ever-cheery ray of sunshine, has resigned. Luckily, we see her frequently during her visits on the upper levels of the armory. Good luck, Shauna!

Another Helena staff member who has left is Gretchen Bingman. Gretchen's work on earthquake training and public assistance is missed.

Those of you with EMA billing questions have already discovered our new Accounting Technician, Carolyn Alm. She is deeply immersed in vague and confusing acronyms, as well as bookkeeping.

Fond farewells to those of you leaving DES. Welcome to all of you who are joining us.